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RECENT LITERATURE.

Flower and Lydekker's Mammals.[1]—In this work we have the result of the combined knowledge of two of the most competent specialists in the field of mammalogy of the present time; and as is to be expected, it is a book of the greatest utility to the student. It is based on the article written by Prof. Flower for the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and has been brought up to date, with the addition of references to the paleontology, by Dr. Lydekker. The former part of the subject is more fully treated than the latter, which is simply introduced to the reader. The illustrations number 357, and are of excellent quality. A majority of them represent the external appearance of the species; but many exhibit the osteology and dentition and a few, parts of the soft anatomy. The order of treatment is from the Monotremata to man, the unguiculate orders being intercalated between the ungulate forms and the Quadrumana. As the Quadrumana are more nearly related to the ungulate than the unguiculate orders, we would have reversed this arrangement. The orders which are treated with the greatest fullness of detail are the Marsupialia, the Diplarthra, and the Quadrumana. The systematic treatment inclines to conserva-

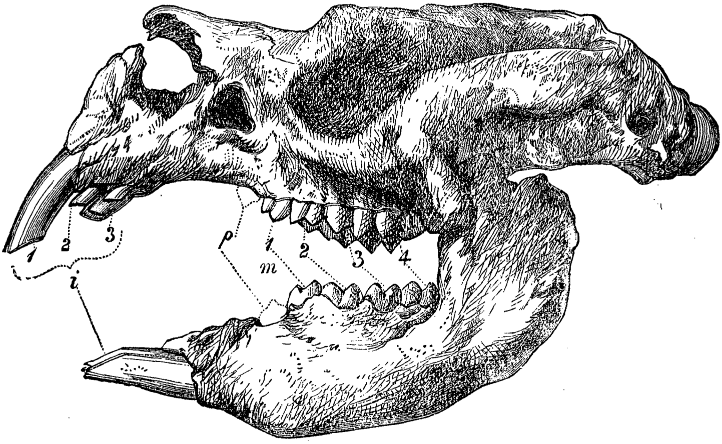

FIG. 1.—*Diprotodon australis* Owen. Extinct marsupial of Australia; one-tenth natural size. From Owen.

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[1] An Introduction to the Study of Mammals, Living and Extinct. By William Henry Flower and Richard Lydekker. London: Adam & Charles, 1891, 8vo., pp. 763.

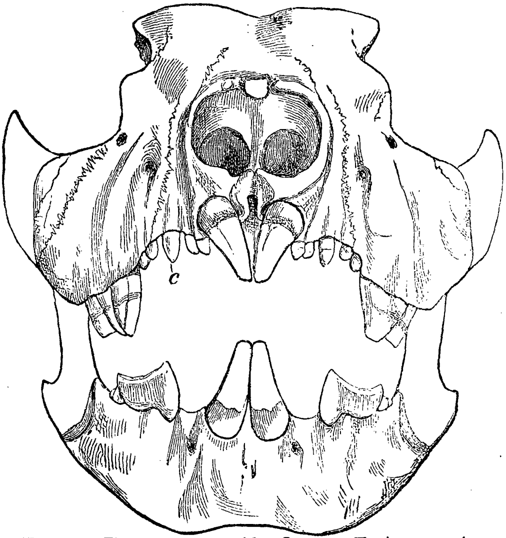

FIG. 2.—*Thylacoleo carnifex* Owen. Extinct carnivorous marsupial of Australia; skull, front view; one-third natural size.

tism, a quality which is of great value in restraining the tendency to excessive subdivision usual among tyros in zoology. In some cases, however, we incline to think it carried too far: as, for instance, when the African rhinoceroses are retained in the same genus with the Indian species; and where all ungulate Mammalia are included in a single order. A little more conservatism would have been consistently shown in the treatment of the Artiodactyla, where the two untenable families Giraffidæ and Antilocapridæ are admitted, and the long list of genera of antelopes is adopted. In the matter of the genera of antelopes, European authors have been apparently unconsciously influenced by the number of species at their disposal, rather than by an observance of the rules they have followed in other divisions.

A few points where the authors have fallen into error in the matter of American forms may be noticed for the benefit of future editions of the book. Tillodontia are placed under Ungulata, but they are distinctly unguiculate; so also are Chalicotheriidæ which are placed in the

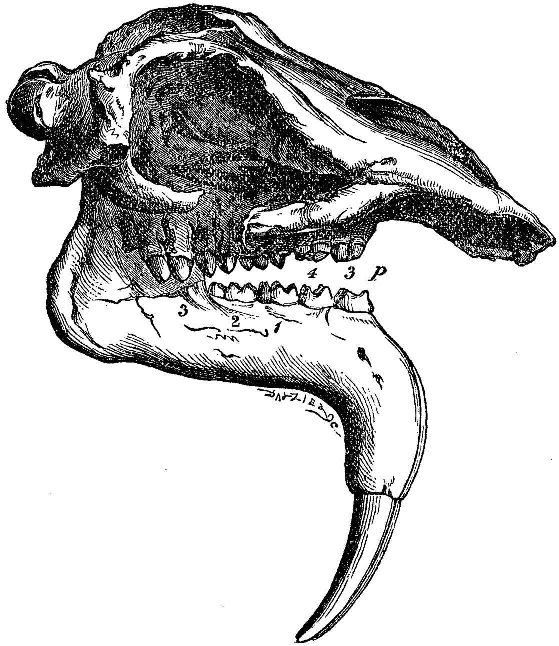

FIG. 3.—*Dinotherium giganteum* Kaup. Extinct proboscidian from Germany; one-tenth natural size. From Kaup.

Perissodactyla. The *Coryphodon elephantopus* Cope is figured as *C. hamatus* Marsh. If the figures of the latter given by Marsh are correct, it belongs to both a species and genus distinct from the former. The name of the creodont genus Oxyæna should not be spelled Oxhyæna, as the first syllable of the word hyæna does not enter into its composition. (Dr. Lydekker would also spell the saurian genus Platecarpus "Platycarpus," although its etymology was stated to be from πλατη, an oar, and not from πλατυς, flat.) The cameloid genus Eschatius includes only the species *E. conidens*, and not the *Holomeniscus vitakerianus*. These slight blemishes can be easily removed; and we will hope that a further consideration of the subject will lead to some modification of the systematic arrangement of the orders in a future edition. Paleontological research has shown that the unguiculate and ungulate series are distinct from the phylogenetic standpoint, the former remaining tritubercular in molar dentition, while the latter became early quaditubercular and lophodont, and mainly continued so.

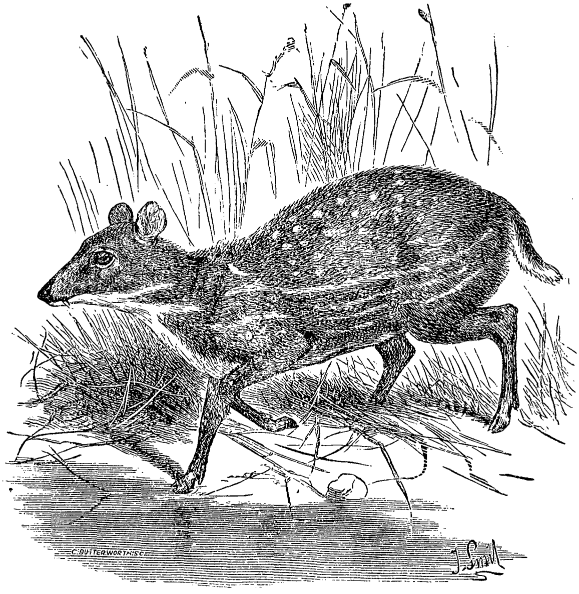

FIG. 4.—*Dorcatherium aquaticum*; West Africa. From Flower and Lydekker.

The natural character of the order Edentata has been demonstrated by paleontology, and it is treated accordingly in the work before us. An especially valuable section is that devoted to man, which constitutes the most valuable popular review of the subject of physical anthropology that we have.

This book is the only comprehensive one on the Mammalia in the English language, and we know of no better one in any language.—E. D. COPE.